

NAPLAN Online – Information for parents and carers

What is NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Students participate in NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN provides an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools and education authorities with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Moving to NAPLAN Online

Schools in all states and territories are moving from paper tests to online tests. It is expected that all NSW schools will transition to NAPLAN Online by 2022. The move to NAPLAN Online brings new benefits for teachers and students.

What are the benefits of NAPLAN Online?

More precise results with an adaptive design:

Tailored tests adapt to a student's performance and ask questions that match the student's achievement levels.

Better engagement: Research into online assessment indicates that students engage well with online tests as the questions are tailored to their achievement levels.

Tailored testing

Tailored testing provides a more precise assessment of students' performance. Students at each year level start with a similar set of questions. Depending on the number of questions they answered correctly, the next set of questions may be more, or less, difficult.

A student's NAPLAN result is based on both the number and difficulty of questions the student answers correctly. A student who completes a more difficult set of questions is more likely to achieve a higher score.

Watch a video (3:06 length) to learn more about tailored testing – <https://youtu.be/oGFseJAM3Ew>

Supporting your child

The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

Excessive preparation or the use of coaching providers is not recommended.

Students can use the public demonstration site to familiarise themselves with the tools and type of questions they will experience in NAPLAN Online – <https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

Students' digital skills

The digital skills required to complete NAPLAN Online are skills that students use in everyday classroom activities.

Students do not need to be able to touch type to complete the test. The online test is not about keyboard skills (just as the paper test is not about handwriting skills).

Withdrawals and exemptions

You can withdraw your child from NAPLAN tests.

A student may be granted a formal exemption if they have:

- a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the tests, or
- recently arrived in Australia and have a non-English speaking background.

Contact your child's school for further information and to complete the parent/carer consent form.

Practice tests

NSW schools participating in NAPLAN Online will participate in practice tests between 22 March and 1 April 2021.

The practice test is a trial-run and key preparation activity for NAPLAN Online in May. It is not an assessment of student ability.

Participation in the practice tests is highly beneficial as it allows schools and students to become familiar with the online assessment platform tools and processes.

NAPLAN Online 2021 test window

Practice test window: 22 March – 1 April

NAPLAN Online test window: 11 – 21 May

The assessment window for NAPLAN Online is nine days instead of the three days provided for the paper test. This is to give schools flexibility in scheduling and accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

What if my child was absent on the day of a scheduled test?

Where possible, schools may arrange catch-up tests for individual students who were absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN Online test.

Catch-up tests are not permitted after Friday 21 May 2021.

COVID-19 advice

Parents should keep students at home if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms and monitor NSW Health advice on COVID-19 case locations across the state. For more information, visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19>.

Your child's school will be required to conduct NAPLAN testing in accordance with the latest NSW Government COVID-19 advice.

Year 3 writing test

The Year 3 writing test is conducted on paper at schools participating in NAPLAN Online. All other Year 3 NAPLAN tests will be online tests.

Privacy

NESA is responsible for the collection of personal information from NSW schools to be used during NAPLAN testing and reporting.

All data collection for NAPLAN is managed in accordance with NSW and Federal privacy legislation described in NESA's privacy management plan, which can be found on the NESA website:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/who-we-are/privacy/naplan-privacy>

Results

Parents receive two reports showing their child's achievements in NAPLAN; the individual student report (ISR) and additional student report (ASR). The ISR and ASR should always be interpreted with care. Teachers will have the best insight into a child's educational progress.

Reports are usually dispatched to schools towards the end of Term 3. Schools then distribute the reports to parents.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.



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